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Address editorial communications to Dr. George H. Kress as per address above. Address business and advertising communications to John Hunton.

EDITOR GEORGE H. KRESS

Committee on Publications

George W. Walker (Chairman) Fresno 1943
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Secretary and Editor ex officio

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BUSINESS MANAGER JOHN HUNTON

Advertising Representative for Northern California
L. J. FLYNN, 544 Market Street, San Francisco (DOuglas 0577)

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Leaflet Regarding Rules of Publication.—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules regarding publication. This leaflet gives suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that contributors to this Journal write to its offices requesting a copy of this leaflet.

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EDITORIALS

BASIC SCIENCE INITIATIVE

Its Fate Will Be Decided on November 3d.

—On Tuesday, November 3d, the voters of California will pass judgment on whether all practitioners of the healing-art shall be required—before being eligible to take licensure examinations—to possess certain fundamental knowledge on subjects termed “basic sciences,” namely, anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, bacteriology and pathology.

The justification of such a law is based on the proposition that the State has a primary obligation to conserve the health and lives of its citizens, and that this governmental function can only be fulfilled in proper manner when practitioners of the healing-art are possessed of adequate education and training. During more than two decades, the California Medical Association has promoted the enactment of a basic science statute, and this year an active campaign was instituted, and the necessary signatures were secured, to place the proposed law before the electorate.

To carry on this educational campaign, however, and to secure the needed signatures, it has been necessary for the California Medical Association to allocate more than fifty thousand dollars from its general funds. This is a large amount of money, but if Proposition No. 3 is enacted, the expenditure will not have been in vain.

It may be said that, by and large, citizens are in favor of adequately-educated healing-art practitioners. The Basic Science law which will appear on the November 3d ballots is not retroactive; that is, it will not apply to healing-art licentiates now on the rosters of their respective examining boards. It does provide that future graduates shall possess this necessary education.

However, the tacit approval by the laity of the principles involved, does not permit the assumption that the measure will go on to easy adoption. On the contrary, owing to the existing unsettled conditions, the vote may not be heavy, and Proposition No. 3—the Basic Science Initiative—can through over-confidence, go down to defeat! Such a happening would be a calamity—in many ways.

* * *

Physicians Must Continue to Work up to November 3d.—Because of the importance of the issues at stake, too much emphasis cannot be placed upon the statement that it behooves California physicians, who are still in civilian practice, to use every possible facility to educate the public to understand that Proposition No. 3 on

the November ballot is worthy of a Yes vote. This coöperation is an obligation due not only to the public health, but also to colleagues who are in service with the armed forces. These fellow physicians in military service have a right to expect us to safeguard both the interests and standards for which they are now offering their all.

We must not be found wanting!

NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL SESSION OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT DEL MONTE

A.M.A. Will Not Meet in San Francisco

Action of C.M.A. Council.—The action taken by the California Medical Association, when it was informed that the Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association might deem it expedient not to convene general sessions of its scientific sections in the year 1943, is reported in Item 9 of the minutes of the meeting of the C.M.A. Council held last month, on September 13.

It will be remembered that, two years ago, the A.M.A. House of Delegates voted to hold their annual session in 1943 in San Francisco. To the Council of the California Medical Association, the proposed action by the authorities of the national organization, if taken, therefore meant that the San Francisco and California Medical Associations might not be the hosts at next year's convention. (The minute item referred to and others having relation thereto appear in this issue on the following pages: page 247, C.M.A. minutes; page 249, letter from Secretary West of the A.M.A.)

* * *

A.M.A. Trustees Vote Postponement.—At its meeting held in Chicago on September 17, the A.M.A. Board of Trustees, for reasons indicated in Secretary West's letter of September 22, 1942, voted not to convene the Scientific Assembly (Scientific Sections, Scientific and Technical Exhibits) but to call, instead, only a meeting of the A.M.A. House of Delegates, to be held in Chicago at a date to be announced later.

With this action, under existing circumstances, no serious exception is taken.

* * *

Suggestion to A.M.A. House of Delegates.—However, the suggestion is made, and the wish is expressed, that at its next meeting the A.M.A. House of Delegates will see fit to adopt a resolution, providing that the cities which had been honored as future places of meetings for A.M.A. sessions (San Francisco in 1943, St. Louis in 1944, and New York in 1945) be retained as prospective hosts in the same order, when general sessions are again resumed. Such an arrangement would permit San Francisco to be first as a city so honored, be that in 1944 or another year; the

hope being, too, that conditions may amend themselves to permit a San Francisco session of the A.M.A. in 1944.

* * *

California Medical Association Session in 1943 will be Held.—Item 21 of the C.M.A. Council minutes of the September 13th meeting recites that the California Medical Association will convene its 72nd annual session at Del Monte—probably in May—unless unforeseen complications arise. Action taken:

It was agreed that plans previously outlined for next year's annual session of the California Medical Association, to be held at Del Monte, should be carried through, the C. M. A. Executive Committee or Council being in position to change the same should conditions so warrant.

* * *

Suggestions for Prospective Essayists and Participants in C.M.A. Session.—Members of the C.M.A. who are in civilian practice are requested to make note of the above decision, and physicians throughout the State are urged to look forward to attendance, on at least one or two days of the session. The rail accommodations, either direct or by way of Salinas, are no more inconvenient, for instance, than those met with, in June last, out of Philadelphia to Atlantic City.

This year's session of the California Medical Association at Del Monte is considered to have measured up to best, and for next year's convention, the hotel and meeting room accommodations are ample. The scientific programs, in the light of newer knowledge coming to us through the channels of military and industrial medicine, can be made most valuable to those in attendance; and also to others, who will read the proceedings in the OFFICIAL JOURNAL.

All who are in position to coöperate, through presentation of papers are urged to communicate promptly with the proper section secretary, the names of section officers appearing in every issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on advertising page 6.

Appeal is also made to members who may be able to present scientific exhibits. In this issue, a copy of one of the handsome, framed certificates is shown. (See page 261.)

Regarding exhibits and films on medical and surgical subjects, correspondence should be addressed to the Association Secretary.

Concerning the advisability of meetings of State medical societies, it may be in order to quote from a recent letter received from Secretary Olin West of the A.M.A., who states:

"I know of no reason why the meetings of the state medical associations should not be held since no interstate movement of moment will be involved. I hope that your meeting scheduled for Del Monte in May will be a most successful occasion."

Even though the attendance prove not so great as in years gone by, the C.M.A. session scheduled for May of 1943, can be made to be of real interest and greatest value.

Wish not so much to live long as to live well.

—Benjamin Franklin, *Poor Richard*, 1738.

* For additional information concerning the Basic Science law, the following references to recent articles in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE are given: July, pages 4 and 100; August, pages 117 and 153; September, pages 171 and 208. In this issue, see page 257.